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Lambda Letters Project

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Go to Bat for HIV/AIDS Prevention

By Sheldon Twigg, Development Manager, CARES

Capital City AIDS Fund and the Pacific Coast League Champion Sacramento River Cats are holding a special AIDS-awareness day, Step Up to the Plate Against AIDS, on August 15 at Raley Field in Sacramento. According to River Cat spokesperson Shasta Webster, "This is a great way for the River Cats to help local agencies reach a larger audience. We look forward to making a difference in the local HIV/AIDS situation."

Step Up to the Plate Against AIDS promises to reach a capacity crowd with important information. The aim of the event is to reduce the stigma and any potential misconceptions people might have about those affected by HIV/AIDS. The ball game will feature a special pregame ceremony, national anthem performance, and ceremonial first pitch conducted by local residents who have been affected by HIV/AIDS, as well as politicians and other champions who have worked in the battle against the disease. AIDS Quilt displays inside the stadium will provide moving testimony on the loss that we all have experienced.

Capital City AIDS Fund hopes to grow the game into one of the region's largest awareness-raising platforms—an effective venue to provide people with a great day of baseball while reducing stigmas, raising awareness, and saving lives.

Take yourself or a group out to the ball game on August 15. Tickets are available at www.capcityaidsfund.org or by calling (916) 440-0889, ext. 301. 

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LLP Offered \$100,000


By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Thanks to a very generous donor, the Lambda Letters Project has been given a chance not only to solve our immediate financial predicament but also to allow LLP to become an even more significant champion of the rights of the LGBTI and HIV/AIDS communities, people of color, and women. *Making this possible, however, relies totally on you—our members.*

As you know, Lambda Letters has been at the forefront of the battle since its founding in 1988. We have learned how to conduct our lobbying work like a well-oiled machine. Last year LLP delivered over one-quarter million letters and e-mails to elected officials. In just the first five months of this year we delivered almost 180,000 letters. They have played a major part in many of the civil rights victories of the past few years. We have letters of commendation from eight current and one former legislator testifying to that fact. Nevertheless, we operate on a tiny annual budget of only about \$50,000. Similar groups run annual budgets approaching \$1 million. Our board of directors is also tiny—just six people. Our ability to be fully effective is shackled by our small board and small budget.

Recently we received an incredible offer that could do much to overcome these real-world problems. Someone offered to donate \$100,000 to Lambda Letters. However, there are three conditions which must be met before the money is donated: The donor must remain anonymous; LLP must enlarge its board to a level needed to run the organization more effectively; and the enlarged board must create a business plan on how to use the gift effectively, secure the future of Lambda Letters, and serve the community better.

We do not get this money until those conditions have been met. We will never get this money if we fail to meet these conditions. So we need people to step up to the plate. We need people to say, "Yes, I will help Lambda Letters qualify for the \$100,000 donation. I will agree to serve on the Lambda Letters board. I will help design an effective business plan for Lambda Letters."

Think about it. Isn't it time for you to step up to the plate? If you are willing, or know someone who would be an ideal candidate, call me at (916) 728-1261. Write me at LambdaLP@aol.com. Enclose a note with your signed letters telling us that you are, indeed, willing to step up to the plate. Please don't disappoint us. 

Lambda Letters Project

Our Mission

To promote the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; and women. We do this by urging elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal.

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Publication of the name of any person or organization in articles or advertising in the Lambda Letters Project newsletter is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. The Lambda Letters Project does not sell or loan its mailing list to anyone. We give no information about who is, or is not, a member of the Project.

We do, occasionally, send mailings on behalf of other worthwhile organizations, but this is done by our own volunteers so that no other organization has the opportunity to copy our mailing lists.

The Lambda Letters Newsletter is published monthly, except in December, by Lambda Letters Project Inc., 6529 Cowboy Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95621.

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Business-card sized ads (3½"x2") \$10, quarter-page ads \$30, third-page ads \$33, half-page ads \$45, full-page ads \$75, full back-page ad \$100. Deadline for payment and camera-ready copy, along with your name and phone number, is the 25th of each month.

- ☐ Yes, I want to make a donation to help LLP continue its important work.
 (Appreciated but not required.)
- ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$30 ☐ other \$_____

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Discrimination Complaints

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave?


If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212. The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

End the Gender Wage Gap

By Kathleen Watanabe, Legislative Analyst

The wage gap between men and women stubbornly remains, despite the passage of the Equal Pay Act over 40 years ago. Women still do not receive equal pay for equal work, let alone equal pay for comparable work. Today women working full-time, year-round earn only 73 cents for every dollar earned by men. In 2000 the median earnings of women were \$27,352 compared to \$37,339 for men. The earnings gap exists across a wide spectrum of occupations. Women are paid less in every occupational classification for which sufficient information is available, according to the data analysis in over 300 job classifications provided by the US Department of Labor Statistics. African-American women are paid only 65 cents for every dollar received by white men, while Hispanic women are paid only 53 cents to the dollar. This wage disparity particularly affects families in which women are the only income earners: single women, divorced women, and widows. This disparity not only affects women's spending power; it penalizes their retirement security by creating gaps in social security and pensions.

Assemblymember Jenny Oropeza (D-Carson) has authored AB 2317, which would add more strength to existing California law. AB 2317 amends the California Labor Code to strengthen individuals' private right of action to recover costs of pay discrimination. It mandates the types of damages employees should recover. It increases the amount of damages for violating state law prohibiting gender-based wage discrimination to three times the balance of the underpaid lost wages with interest. It subjects repeat or willful violators to a civil penalty equal to five times the balance of the underpaid lost wages with interest.

AB 2317 has passed the Assembly and the Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations and is now before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Please write to members of the committee and urge them to approve this bill. 

Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters and Messages Collected

May, 2004	79,275 letters & e-mails
In all of 2004	181,509 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

May, 2004	\$3,490
In all of 2004	\$20,600

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

OK Multilingual Services

By Marty Martinez, Legislative Analyst


Since 1973 California law has required all state and local agencies to ensure that their services are accessible to substantial populations of limited-English-speaking individuals. The Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act specifically requires that when state and local agencies serve a "substantial number of non-English speaking people," they must employ a "sufficient number of qualified bilingual staff in public contact positions," among other things.

AB 2408, introduced by Leland Yee (D-San Francisco), seeks to strengthen and clarify existing state law that requires state agencies to employ sufficient numbers of bilingual staff to meet the needs of the substantial non-English-speaking communities they serve.

The lack of language-appropriate services can have unjust and tragic consequences. Testimony in recent public hearings illustrates how language barriers can deprive residents of critical services, including healthcare, the ability to report crimes to law enforcement, and enforcement of labor and minimum-wage protections. Young children and youth are often forced to interpret for family members in situations where they lack either the appropriate vocabulary or sophistication to translate.

Despite the compelling need for state and local government services in languages other than English, implementation of the Dymally-Alatorre Act has been poor. In 1999, a state auditor's report concluded that many state and local agencies are not in compliance. One of the major problems has been a shortage of bilingual staff at state agencies.

AB 2408 would address these problems by clarifying the general requirement that bilingual staff should be hired in unfilled public contact positions when a state agency or the State Personnel Board has identified a deficiency in bilingual staffing at any of the agency's local offices. The bill includes a procedure to seek a reasonable exemption. AB 2408 would not require the dismissal or displacement of any existing staff, nor would it require the creation of new staff positions.

Current law only requires agencies to seek increases in the number of bilingual staff by filling employee public contact positions made vacant by retirement or normal attrition with bilingual staff. AB 2408 would also require the filling of *newly created* positions with bilingual staff when needed to increase the number of public contact employees who are bilingual. The agency's responsibility to hire bilingual staff would end once it is in compliance with existing law. At the time of this writing, the bill is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee, hopefully on its way to the full Senate. Please support AB 2408 by writing to your state senator. 

Support Clean Needle Exchange Programs

By Jamie E. Shauvin, Legislative Analyst

This month we ask that you write to the members of the California State Senate Appropriations Committee asking for their support of AB 2871. Introduced by Assemblymember Patty Berg (D-Santa Rosa), this bill will save lives by increasing the number of cities and counties willing to participate in clean needle and syringe exchange programs.

Under current law, county boards of supervisors or city councils must declare a local emergency in order to implement a needle exchange program. If a local government wishes to continue its program, it must renew the local emergency declaration every 14 to 21 days. A 2002 Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation report about needle exchange in six California communities found that this requirement may limit the ability to implement needle exchange programs, even in communities where there is significant political support for them. The report stated that the renewal requirement is administratively burdensome and creates an unnecessary barrier for local jurisdictions. AB 2871 removes an unnecessary burden of declaring and renewing a state of emergency every two weeks.

According to the Department of Health Services (DHS), California now spends over \$315 million each year on services to people with HIV and AIDS. As of last December, there were 123,819 cumulative cases of HIV/AIDS reported in California since the outbreak of the epidemic. The DHS also reports that approximately 20 percent of all cases of HIV infection are related to intravenous drug users sharing dirty needles. If we could reduce the sharing of dirty needles significantly, we could have a huge impact on the spread of HIV and AIDS. A reduction in sharing dirty needles would probably do much to lower the state's cost of treating the disease. One way to reduce the sharing of dirty needles is to improve access to clean hypodermic needles or syringes.

AB 2871 is a reintroduction of AB 946, a bill that Assemblymember Berg carried last year but that Governor Davis vetoed. AB 2871 could do much to slow the spread of serious blood-borne diseases by increasing the number of cities and counties that participate in clean needle exchange programs. That, in turn, could contribute to reducing the current projected health services costs to the state of caring for people with these diseases. Those are goals you should really care about.

Please write to the member of the Senate Appropriations Committee shown in your sample letter. Urge the senator to approve AB 2871 increasing the number of cities and counties that would be willing to participate in clean needle exchange programs. ✉

Oppose Harassment in the Workplace

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Last year the legislature passed AB 76 (by Ellen Corbett, D-San Leandro), requiring employers to protect employees from sexual harassment by the employers' own customers and clients.

However, that law does not protect employees from sexual orientation-based harassment, gender harassment, or harassment because of their race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, medical condition, age, or marital status.

This month we ask that you write to your state senator in support of AB 2889. Introduced by John Laird (D-Santa Cruz), this bill would require employers to protect employees from various kinds of harassment by the employers' own customers or clients.

These new protections will include harassment based on sexual orientation and gender harassment, among other things.

This clean-up bill seeks to "equalize" worker protections appropriately against harassment so that, regardless of the type of harassment being perpetrated by a customer, client, or other third party in the workplace, the message will be clear: Such harassment will not be tolerated and California employers must take reasonable steps to protect their employees.

Federal law, court decisions, and the rules of various federal agencies require employers to provide protection to their employees from these other forms of harassment. AB 2889 merely conforms state law to federal law and practice.

AB 2889 is good law. Please write to the Assembly and urge them to support this important bill. ✉

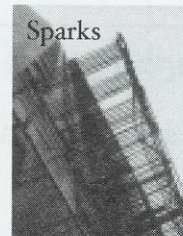
*What happens when women put pen to paper... brush to canvas...
lens to scene?*

Sparks

*spark — n. 1. A fiery particle
resulting from friction. 2. A flash of
light. 3. A trace or suggestion.
4. A vital, animating or activating force.*

Sparks is a forum for the creative and intellectual expression of women through short stories, essays, articles, poetry, photography, and art. Contact us or check out our website for information on submissions and subscriptions.

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July Legislative Update

This year, as in most recent years, it appears the legislature is late in approving the state budget. Negotiations on the budget will continue into July when, officially, no legislative committee meetings occur. However, with legislators waiting around for the budget to be approved, they may go ahead and convene some committee meetings to discuss and vote on some of the bills awaiting the legislature. The official date for reconvening the legislature is August 2.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 1925 (Ray Haynes, R-Temecula)
Purpose: To require advance notice to parents, under certain circumstances, of sex or AIDS education to be given in a school and to notify parents that they can remove their children from this education by submitting a written request.

Status: Approved by the Senate Education Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on June 28.

LLP Position: Oppose.

AB 1957 (Dario Frommer, D-Glendale)
Purpose: To require the state to establish a Web site to display price comparisons of prescription drugs, including prices charged by licensed pharmacies in the state and Canadian pharmacies that provide mail-order service to the US that meet certification requirements established under the bill. Also requires the state to consider buying drugs from Canada.

Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2871 (Patty Berg, D-Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To make it easier for cities and counties to establish clean needle

and syringe exchange programs.

Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AJR 61 (Mark Ridley-Thomas, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To urge the US Secretary of Health and Human Services to certify that permitting the importation of prescription drugs from Canada into the US poses no additional risk to the public's health and safety and, in fact, results in a significant reduction in the cost of prescription drugs to the American consumer.

Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Awaiting a final vote in the Senate.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1149 (Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento)

Purpose: To require the state to develop and disseminate information identifying pharmacies in Canada that meet recognized standards for the safe dispensing of dangerous drugs (prescriptions) to California residents. Listed pharmacies must register with the state and pay a \$1,500 fee. State also must publicize foreign suppliers that do not meet standards. Information should be posted on the Internet.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1159 (John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To authorize a licensed pharmacist to sell hypodermic needles or syringes to a person without a prescription under specified conditions, and to authorize a person to possess up to 10 hypodermic needles or syringes if acquired through an authorized source. This bill comes into force only if SB 1362 is also passed and signed by the governor.

Status: Approved by the Assembly

Health Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support. This would facilitate authorized clean-needle exchange programs around the state.

SB 1362 (Liz Figueroa, D-Fremont)

Purpose: To require local governments to include in their waste management plans a procedure for the safe collection, treatment, and disposal of household hypodermic needles, syringes, and lancets.

Status: Awaiting a final vote in the Assembly. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1494 (John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To provide that a qualified person with a medical marijuana identification card, or any designated primary caregiver, may possess any amount of marijuana consistent with the medical needs of that qualified person with an identification card.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. Awaiting a final vote in the Assembly.

LLP Position: Support.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/ Transgender/Intersex Issues

AB 1918 (Cindy Montanez, D-Mission Hills)

Purpose: To allow a school employee, in a school district that is not subject to disability compensation laws, to take up to six weeks off with partial pay to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent, or domestic partner, or to bond with a new child.

Status: Approved by the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee. Awaiting a final vote in the Assembly.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2208 (Christine Kehoe, D-San Diego)

Purpose: To require that domestic partners be treated equally to married couples by insurance companies with regard to benefits under all kinds of

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Legislative Update

Continued from page 5

insurance policies regulated by the Department of Insurance.

Status: Approved by the Senate Insurance Committee. Sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2889 (John Laird, D-Santa Cruz)

Purpose: To make employers responsible for the acts of nonemployees with respect to all forms of harassment (including harassment based on the LGBTI or HIV status of employees) in the workplace where the employer or its agents or supervisors knew, or should have known, of the conduct and failed to take immediate and appropriate corrective action.

Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2900 (John Laird, D-Santa Cruz)

Purpose: To amend nondiscrimination language in California's labor and employment codes to make the language uniform. The nondiscrimination language found in the Fair Employment and Housing Act will be used as the model. Sexual orientation, gender identity, and language protecting women and other minorities will be amended into many of these government codes.

Status: Approved by Assembly. Sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote on June 22.

LLP Position: Support.

AJR 60 (Sally Lieber, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To approve an Assembly Joint Resolution urging Congress and President Bush to support the Permanent Partners Immigration Act. This act, now being considered in Congress, would allow US citizens to obtain permanent legal US residency for their domestic partners who are citizens of another country.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Awaiting a final vote in the Assembly.

LLP Position: Support. Currently straight couples can obtain the same result by marriage.

AJR 67 (Dennis Mountjoy, R-Monrovia)

Purpose: To urge Congress to pass a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage in the United States.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Hearing cancelled at the author's request. The bill is probably dead.

LLP Position: Oppose.

AJR 85 (Mark Leno, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To urge Congress *not* to pass a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage in the United States.

Status: Passed the Assembly. Sent to the Senate. Not assigned yet to a committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1193 (Nell Soto, D-Ontario)

Purpose: To require the state to pay a \$10,000 death benefit to the surviving spouse, or beneficiary designated by the service member, of any member of the California National Guard, State

Military Reserve, or Naval Militia who dies or is killed in the performance of state military duty.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Veteran's Affairs Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1234 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To enact a uniform definition of "hate crime" and direct all state and local agencies to use it exclusively; encourage all law-enforcement agencies to adopt a formal hate-crime protocol; direct law-enforcement agencies to deliver expanded hate crimes training to their officers; and increase penalties for hate crimes.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

People of Color Issues

AB 292 (Leland Yee, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To provide that a state or local governmental agency, or a public or private agency supported by state funding, shall not use any child, or permit any child to be used, as a translator or interpreter in any matter involving the business or function of that agency, except as specified. This would require each agency that receives state funding to have available for inspection an established procedure for providing competent translation services.

Status: Currently in the Senate Appro-

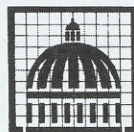
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priations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 858 (Jackie Goldberg, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To prohibit public schools from using the word "Redskins" as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname.

Status: Approved by the Senate Education Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on June 28. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1796 (Mark Leno, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To provide that a convicted drug felon shall be eligible for aid under the Food Stamp Program. Those convicted of using drugs would be helped by this bill. Drug dealers would be excluded from its benefits.

Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a vote on June 28. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1815 (Wilma Chan, D-Oakland)

Purpose: To raise the income tax rate and the alternate minimum income tax rate on California's wealthiest citizens.

Status: Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. But the author's office says the bill is not dead.

LLP Position: Support. This would reduce the pressure to make cuts to vital HIV/AIDS programs and other health and social service programs.

AB 1895 (Joe Nation, D-San Rafael)

Purpose: To require that an attorney who specializes in immigration law, or a certified immigration specialist, be provided to a dependent child of the court who is not a citizen of the US and when the court has decided parental reunification is not an option. The bill would exclude counties that already have similar programs in place.

Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1963 (Simon Salinas, D-Salinas)

Purpose: To encourage the use of *promotores de salud* and community health workers to provide better health outcomes for rural and underserved communities, particularly agricultural workers, and seek to incorporate the use of *promotores de salud* and community health workers in the full range of state-funded health programs. (*Promotores de salud* are programs that utilize trained community members to provide linguistically and culturally appropriate outreach, education, and access to services.)

Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

Continued on page 8

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Don't Let THEM Change OUR Constitution!

The Elections Committee of the County of Orange (ECCO) is a **combined Federal and State Political Action Committee** that champions issues important to the GLBT community.

Join us as we financially assist federal and state representatives, candidates, and organizations from Orange County and Long Beach that will defend the U.S. Constitution from the Federal Marriage Amendment.

ECCO supports the Lambda Letters Project

ECCO is a non-partisan Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, HIV/AIDS, and Women's Political Action Committee.

www.eccopac.org



Legislative Update

Continued from page 7

AB 2387 (Marco Firebaugh, D-South Gate)

Purpose: To authorize the University of California and the California State University to consider culture, race, ethnicity, gender national origin, geographic origin, and household income, along with other relevant factors, in undergraduate and graduate admissions under certain limited conditions. These may not be the deciding factors in admissions. Also authorizes the schools to gather certain demographic data on students.

Status: Approved by the Senate Education Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2408 (Leland Yee, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To strengthen and clarify the law requiring state agencies to employ sufficient numbers of bilingual staff to meet the needs of the non-English-

speaking communities they serve.

Status: Approved by the Senate PERS Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on June 28. **LLP Position:** Support

AB 2428 (Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park)

Purpose: To protect the victims of hate crimes and their families by ensuring, absent compelling reasons that dictate otherwise, that a restraining order prohibiting further contact with the victim or victim's family be placed on the perpetrator when he or she is released from custody.

Status: Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AJR 54 (Robert Pacheco, R-City of Industry)

Purpose: To petition Congress to revise the formula used to calculate the federal Medicaid assistance percentage (FMAP) to consider, in addition to a state's per-capita income, the total

number of persons living in poverty in that state.

Status: Passed by the state legislature. Sent to Congress.

LLP Position: Support.

AJR 62 (Ridley Thomas, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To ask Congress to repeal a law that prohibits the federal government from bargaining over drug prices for Medicare prescription drugs.

Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Awaiting a final vote in the Senate.

LLP Position: Support.

AJR 64 (Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park)

Purpose: To condemn hate crimes against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, Sikh-Americans, and other Americans and to urge police to prevent these crimes and to vigorously investigate and prosecute them.

Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

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SB 17 (Martha Escutia, D-Norwalk)

Purpose: To amend the laws relating to property taxes on nonresidential commercial and industrial property to eliminate loopholes that have allowed such properties to evade reassessment upon sale of the property.

Status: In the Assembly inactive file.

LLP Position: Support. This bill would increase tax revenues and reduce the need to cut spending on health and social services programs.

SB 921 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To establish a single-payer, universal healthcare delivery system in California. Under this system the state would pay all the medical bills and every resident of California would have health insurance.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1144 (John Burton, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To allow the state to buy drugs from Canadian manufacturers, among others. Would require the state to seek federal permission to buy drugs in Canada.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1160 (Gilbert Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To allow undocumented immigrants, under certain circumstances, to obtain driver's licenses.

Status: Approved by the Senate Transportation Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a hearing on June 28.

LLP Position: Oppose unless amended. The current version of the bill has criminal background checking provisions that might endanger undocumented immigrants. Other provisions would deny drivers licenses if an immigrant has been convicted of an offense as minor as loitering.

SB 1170 (Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento)

Purpose: To require the state to establish (on or before January 1, 2005) a list of maximum allowable costs that drug providers could charge the state for medicines used in the Medi-Cal program.

Status: Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on June 22. Hearing cancelled by author. **LLP Position:** Support. The list would keep costs down and reduce pressure to limit Medi-Cal enrollment.

SB 1333 (Don Perata, D-Oakland)

Purpose: To authorize the state to reimburse a pharmacy that provides to a Medi-Cal beneficiary, or an AIDS Drug Assistance (ADAP) patient, a prescription drug that was purchased from a Canadian pharmacy that is licensed with the state of California.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1499 (Kevin Murray, D-Culver City)

Purpose: To prohibit an employer

from charging a fee for cashing an employee's payroll check, transporting an employee to a job site, or renting an employee the tools necessary to perform the duties of the employment.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1563 (Martha Escutia, D-Norwalk)

Purpose: To deem that a drug manufacturer entering into a contract with state and local governments must agree to offer certain clinics that serve poor people prices that do not exceed the discounted prices specified under federal law.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SJR 21 (Joe Dunn, D-Garden Grove)

Purpose: To ask Congress to establish a fact-finding commission to determine if the federal government mistreated American citizens and permanent resident aliens of Mexican descent who were deported or coerced to emigrate during the 1930s and to recommend appropriate remedies.

Status: Introduced.

LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 1825 (Sarah Reyes, D-Fresno)

Purpose: To require larger employers to train supervisors on the subject of remedies for, and laws against, sexual harassment in the workplace.

Status: Approved by the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1946 (Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento)

Purpose: To streamline and improve a process already available under

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Legislative Update

Continued from page 9

California law, which allows compassionate release from jail for certain prisoners who are ill and have less than six months to live.

Status: Approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Sent to the Senate floor for a final vote.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2010 (Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley)

Purpose: To allow Alameda and Solano Counties to increase fees, up to a maximum increase of \$2, for certified copies of marriage certificates, birth certificates, fetal death records, and death records, for the purposes of providing funding for governmental oversight and for the coordination of domestic violence prevention, intervention, and prosecution efforts in the county.

Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sent to the Senate floor for a final vote.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2018 (Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park)

Purpose: To provide that in a divorce case, if there is a judgment for civil damages for an act of domestic violence perpetrated by one spouse against the other spouse the court may enforce that judgment against the abusive spouse's share of community property

Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sent to the Senate floor for a final vote.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2148 (Manny Diaz, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To allow a court to require parties to a child custody, visitation, and child-support proceedings to pay attorney's fees and court costs. This would allow the court to order one party to pay the other party's costs when the other party cannot afford them; would allow the court to issue a temporary order on child custody, visitation, and child support while the case is being litigated; and would allow the court to

order spousal support, if the parties are married, during litigation of a domestic abuse case.

Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2317 (Jenny Oropeza, D-Carson)

Purpose: To increase the penalty for employers who pay women less for doing the same work as men.

Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2742 (Dennis Mountjoy, R-Monrovia)

Purpose: To require that state prisons give prisoners the medical care that competent physicians say they need.

Status: Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Sent to the Senate

Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1385 (John Burton, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To make numerous changes and improvements to laws concerning intimate partner battering.

Status: Passed the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Sent to the Assembly floor for a final vote.

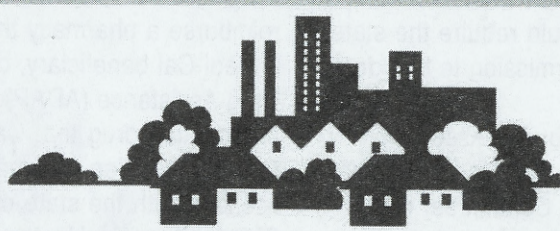
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1441 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To provide that a victim of domestic violence or abuse has the right to have a domestic violence counselor and a support person of his or her choosing present at any interview by law enforcement authorities, district attorneys, or defense attorneys.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Sent to the Assembly floor for a final vote.

LLP Position: Support. 



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